

Week 10



- WR Hankerson enjoys big day back home. R2
- Defense creates, but offense can't convert. R3

# Dolphins 20, Redskins 9



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011 ☆☆☆

The Washington Times

washingtontimes.com/sports/football SECTION R

# TAKING THE FALL



## Change fails to produce points; skid reaches five

By RICH CAMPBELL  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.** | The Washington Redskins are circling on a carousel of losses. Round and round they go.

This disaster of a season got away from them last month because of Rex Grossman's interceptions. It then twirled to John Beck's poor timing. And on Sunday it whipped back around to another costly Grossman pick.

It's a nauseating ride the Redskins can't get off. Coach Mike Shanahan reinstated Grossman as the starting quarterback before Sunday's game against the Miami Dolphins only to be reminded why he benched Grossman in the first place.

Grossman's fourth-quarter interception at the Dolphins' 5-yard line stopped a potential go-ahead touchdown drive and ultimately doomed the point-starved Redskins to a 20-9 defeat.

After their fifth straight loss, they're back to where they started. Shanahan has exhausted both of his quarterback options with negligible success.

He'll proceed into the final seven games without a clear-cut starter, proof that the organization has made no progress at quarterback through 25 games of his tenure.

"We'll change week by week like I told you," Shanahan said. "We're just going to keep on fighting and do what we feel like gives us the best chance to win based on a number of situations. It could be the defense. It could be personnel."

If the quarterback is the most important player on a football team, then you understand the hopelessness that clouds the Redskins' final seven games. Players inside the locker room afterward expressed support of both Grossman and Beck, but the results on the field have not earned that.

Shanahan said he intended to stick with Beck after last Sunday's 19-11 loss to San Francisco. He changed his mind by Tuesday, however, and both quarterbacks split practice repetitions with the first-team offense last week.

"Putting John in a situation where we had a number of players go down, with his experience, I thought it was in our best interest to go with the guy I felt would give us the best chance to

» see REDSKINS | R3

Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman gets off a pass as he is pressured by Dolphins linebacker Cameron Wake during the fourth quarter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## QB or not QB? That is the question for Grossman



DAN DALY

**MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.** For a team in the throes (or is it the overthrows?) of what the Washington Redskins are in the throes of, there is no bottom. Two losses become three. Three turn into four. And then you run the streak to five with a 20-9 loss on Sunday to the previously 1-7 Miami Dolphins.

That might seem as low as a club can sink, but then you glance at the schedule and realize there are still seven games to go. Seven more games for Mike Shanahan to play Guess the Quarterback. Seven

more games for young players — thrown into the breach because of a lengthening injury list — to make young-player mistakes. Seven more games to wonder whether the Shanahan Redskins are ever going to resemble, in any respect, the Shanahan Broncos. A long time, seven games.

Maybe they should stop televising the games and just air the Redskins' practices. After all, that's where the real action figures to be these next two months. It's there the players and coaches plan to solve their problems through — what was

that again, Shanny? Oh yeah, "hard work."

It's also there — every week, from the sound of it — Shanahan will decide which quarterback will "give us the best chance to win" Sunday. All kinds of factors will be considered, apparently, including practice performance, the opponent, which guys are out of the lineup and whether one of the QBs has pneumonia.

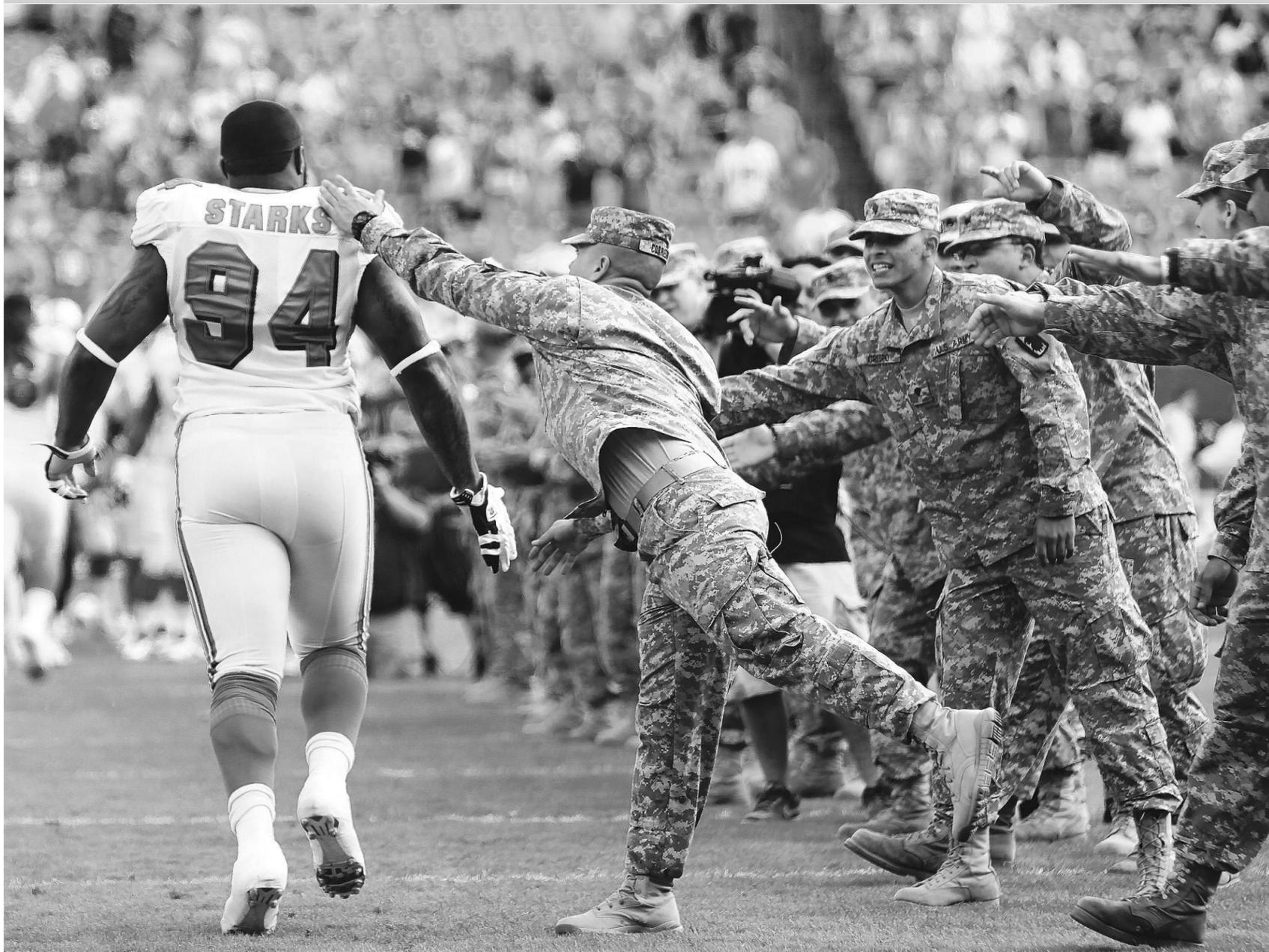
In the days before the Dolphins game, Shanahan spun his spinner and it pointed to Rex Grossman, who had been banished to the bench after throwing four interceptions against Philadelphia — the first of

the Redskins' five straight defeats. But in the next month, as the injuries mounted, the situation went from bad to (John) Beck. Indeed, probably the only reason Grossman didn't play last Sunday, in the second half of the San Francisco loss, is that the coach was tired of admitting he's wrong ... about this quarterback, that quarterback and every other quarterback.

But the switch back to Grossman brought no dramatic change in the Redskins' fortunes, basically because their is-

» see DALY | R2

## FOR THOSE ABOUT TO PLAY, WE SALUTE YOU



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami defensive end Randy Starks was greeted by enthusiastic U.S. military personnel before the Dolphins beat the Redskins 20-9. It was Washington's fifth straight defeat.

DOLPHINS 20, REDSKINS 9

## Hankerson enjoys 'special' day with 106 yards receiving at home

By ANTHONY CHIANG

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.** | Despite the loss, Leonard Hankerson will always remember Sunday's game.

The rookie didn't just post a career high in receptions and receiving yards against the Miami Dolphins, but he also returned home for the first time since being selected by the Washington Redskins in the third round of the 2011 NFL Draft.

"It was very special to go out there and play in front of my family in the stadium that I've been playing in for the last three years," Hankerson said. "It was special to have my family come out there and see me."

The Fort Lauderdale native, who spent four years at the University of Miami, had about 50 of his closest friends and family members scattered around Sun Life Stadium during Sunday's 20-9 loss to the Dolphins.

Hankerson treated them to quite the performance.

In his second career start, he led the Redskins with eight catches for 106 yards before leaving because of a right hip strain late in the fourth quarter. After the game, he said his hip was "a little sore," and he didn't know if it would force him to miss any time.

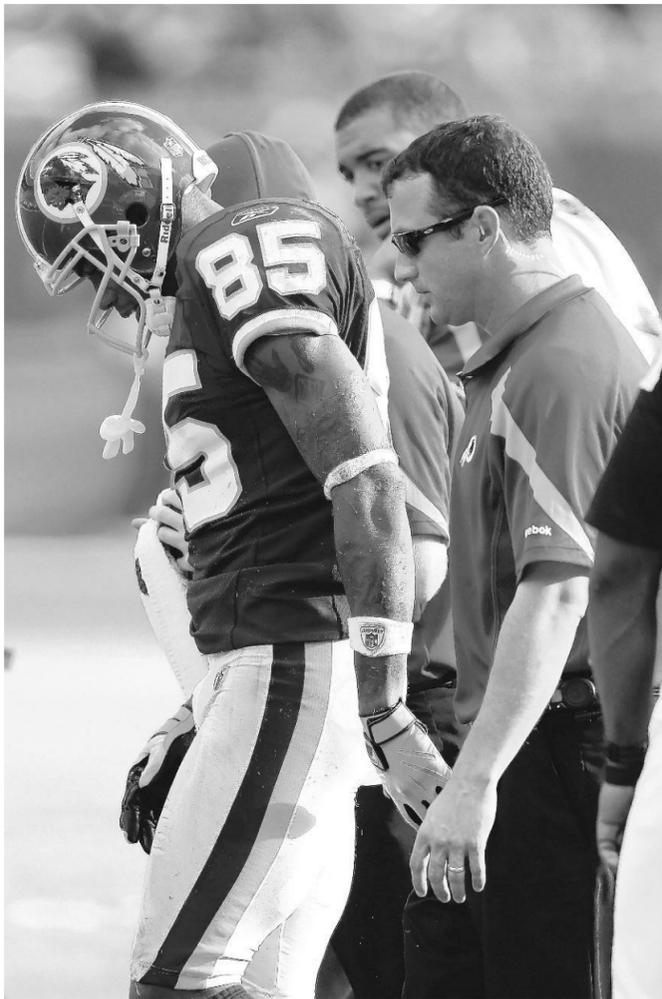
However, he was on the field just long enough to become the first Redskins rookie wide receiver to accumulate more than 100 receiving yards in a game since Rod Gardner did it on Oct. 21, 2001.

"It just felt good to contribute to the team and know that I'm capable of making plays," Hankerson said.

Two of the most impressive aspects of Hankerson's performance are that his eight catches came on just nine chances, and he accounted for nearly 50 percent of Washington's passing offense.

These types of stats wouldn't have been possible for him earlier in the season, as he struggled to find playing time. But after impressing teammates and coaches in practice over the past couple of weeks, Hankerson has found a spot in Washington's offense.

After not seeing the field in the Redskins' first five games of the year, the 6-foot-2 wide receiver has caught



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leonard Hankerson was the first Redskins rookie with more than 100 receiving yards in a game in 10 years before leaving with an aching hip in the fourth quarter.

at least one pass in the past three contests and made his first career start last Sunday against San Francisco.

"[My comfort level in the offense is] growing a whole lot," he said, "because, being on scout team and then going to get reps with the first-team offense, it's helping me get more confidence to go out there and do what I have to do."

**"Being on scout team and then going to get reps with the first-team offense, it's helping me get more confidence to go out there and do what I have to do."**

—WR Leonard Hankerson

## DALY

From page R1

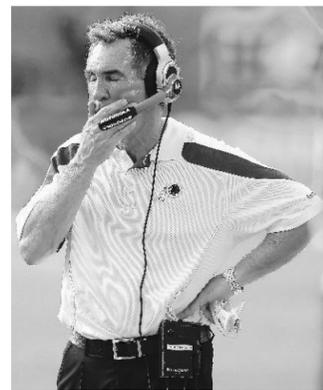
sues on offense extend far, far beyond the QB spot. As Grossman said, the unit hasn't been generating any "breakout" plays — the kind that get you "60 or 70 yards a pop," flipping the field position and the momentum with one bold stroke. On top of that, he added, "It feels like [opposing defenses are] taking away some of our deep shots."

What they're doing, Jabar Gaffney said, is "leaving their two safeties back all the time and pretty much daring us to run the ball on 'em." This is a sound strategy, given the damaged state of the Washington offensive line. Against the Dolphins, the left guard (Kory Lichtensteiger, replaced by rookie Mo Hurt) and the right tackle (Jammal Brown, replaced by Sean Locklear) were missing — and the left tackle (Trent Williams) remains less than 100 percent. Why *not* dare the Redskins to run?

And sure enough, Ryan Torain made little headway, gaining just 20 yards in 11 carries in the first half before yielding to rookie Roy Helu (41 in six tries). Until the Redskins run it a good deal better than that, defenses will just continue to sit back and deny the downfield stuff.

Let's face it, when your tight end is your principal deep threat — and that's certainly the case with this offense "at times," Fred Davis said — you're in a world of trouble. What's happening now, of course, is that Davis is "being double-covered a lot more, which is creating more opportunities for other guys." Unfortunately for the Redskins, those guys aren't Santana Moss (broken hand), Chris Cooley (knee surgery) or any of the other playmakers of recent vintage (e.g. Clinton Portis). They're journey-men Gaffney and Torain, neophytes Helu and Leonard Hankerson, and whatever street free agent strolls by (e.g. David Anderson, who caught a pass against the Dolphins just four days after his first workout with the Redskins).

In such circumstances, Redskins games have begun to take on a pre-season feel — plenty of kids playing, the score seeming almost incidental. On the developmental front, Helu made another nice contribution (54 yards from scrimmage in essentially two quarters of work) and Hankerson had the first of what could be many 100-yard receiving days (before hurting his hip in the late going and hobbling



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan has gone back and forth with his top two quarterbacks through the first nine games.

to the sideline). On defense, meanwhile, Ryan Kerrigan had two sacks and two forced fumbles. That's what we're reduced to, talking about the progress being made by the Redskins of the Future ... so we don't have to think too much about the Redskins of the Present.

How bad is tailspin the Redskins are in? Answer: They haven't led, not once, in the past five games. What makes it even worse, though, is that their coach has never had to deal before with — how shall I put it? — such a rapid loss of cabin pressure. This is the first time as a head man Shanahan has dropped five in a row. So the coach being counted on to lead the franchise out of the wilderness is now in uncharted territory — up a creek without a GPS, so to speak.

Not to worry, though. He'll just turn a weakness into a "strength" by remaining mysterious about his quarterback plans. Maybe he'll stick with Grossman this weekend against Dallas. Or maybe he'll go back to Beck. Or maybe he'll promote Jonathan Crompton from the practice squad. Or maybe he'll lure Jake Plummer out of retirement. (Or maybe he'll activate himself. He used to play QB, didn't he?)

I asked Gaffney — the erstwhile Houston Texan, New England Patriot and Denver Bronco — if he'd ever been on a team where the quarterback position was in such flux.

"Not since college," he replied. "We had Rex and Jesse Palmer [at Florida], and we never knew who was going to start."

Oh, great. Now we're comparing Shanny to Steve Spurrier.

DOLPHINS 20, REDSKINS 9

# Defense creates turnovers; offense can't convert

## Two FGs all that come from prime position

By ANTHONY CHIANG

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

MIAMI GARDENS, FLA. | If it's not one thing, it's another for Washington's defense.

After struggling to force turnovers over the past three games, the unit intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble Sunday. But this week, the Redskins could not get off the field in important situations as the Miami Dolphins converted 57 percent of their third-down opportunities in a 20-9 victory.

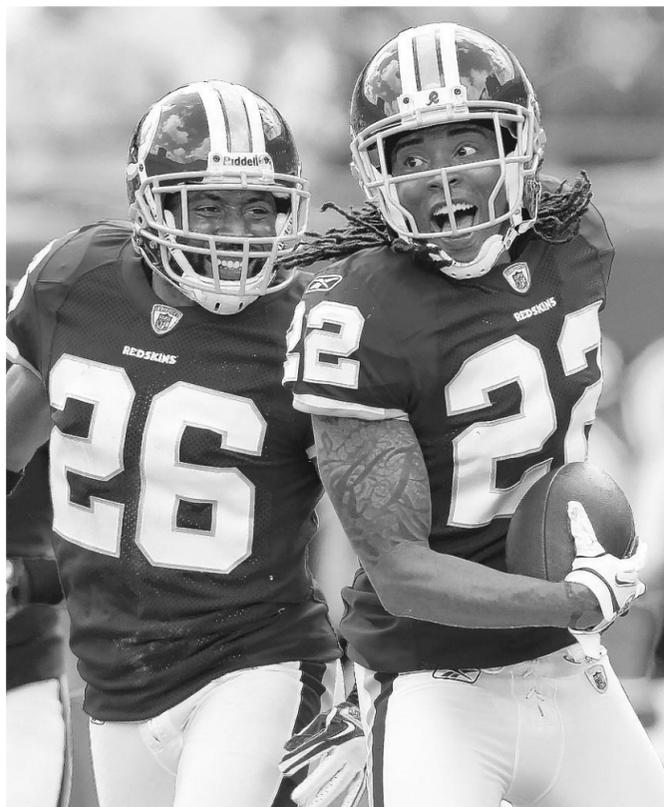
"That was the big thing today," linebacker Ryan Kerrigan said. "That's something we've been really good at this year. I think we're one of the top five or six teams in the league on third down, but we weren't able to get off the field today. Ultimately, I think that led to their long, sustained drives."

In fact, the Redskins entered with the fifth-best third-down defense in the NFL, limiting opposing offenses to a 32.7 percent conversion rate through the first eight games.

But Miami was successful in confusing Washington with different offensive formations in those spots.

"They moved [Brandon] Marshall around a couple of times to kind of create situations and matchups they liked," linebacker London Fletcher said. "We tried different coverages and pressures to try to negate what they were doing. We tried single out, we tried pressures, we had a couple two-on-two man, straight cover two, cover three, a little bit of everything."

Not much seemed to work, though, as the Dolphins were able to gain just enough yards to convert three third-down chances during their two possessions that ended with a touchdown.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Redskins cornerback Kevin Barnes (22) celebrates with Josh Wilson during the first quarter after intercepting a pass from Dolphins quarterback Matt Moore. The play was set up thanks to pressure by nose tackle Barry Cofield (right).

"We just couldn't get it done," said linebacker Perry Riley, who made his first career start Sunday. "I can't pinpoint exactly what the problem was."

Aside from its inability to stop Miami in these situations, Washington's defense gave its offense opportunities to put up points.

In the first quarter, cornerback Kevin Barnes intercepted a pass and returned it to Miami's 5-yard line, and in the third quarter Kerrigan forced a fumble that was recovered at Miami's 24-

10-yard line in the fourth quarter. The Dolphins broke the game open by scoring a touchdown on the following possession.

However, the Redskins managed just two field goals. "You always want to get six points every time you have the ball with a short field," Kerrigan said. "But our job as a defense is to, no matter what our offense is doing, hold the other team out of the end zone and off the scoreboard, and we didn't do that."

Instead, a turnover hurt the Redskins, when quarterback Rex Grossman threw an interception to kill a drive that had Washington on Miami's

10-yard line in the fourth quarter. The Dolphins broke the game open by scoring a touchdown on the following possession.

But defensive players continue to insist that the offense's play is not affecting them.

"Really when I focus on stuff, I look at it from a defensive standpoint," Fletcher said. "We did enough things today defensively to keep us from winning. We did some things with the take-aways, but at the end of the day, we lost."

That mentality has not helped the defense to overcome Washington's offensive struggles. The Redskins have scored a total of 20 points in their past three games — all losses.

"I'm running out of material," linebacker Brian Orakpo said. "I don't know what else to tell you. I've never been a part of something like this, and we just have to keep fighting, man. I know we have a good team and great players on this team, we just have to put it together."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins safety LaRon Landry can't catch Reggie Bush during Sunday's game in Miami. Bush scored both of the Dolphins' touchdowns in a 20-9 win.

### DOLPHINS 20, REDSKINS 9

Washington	3	3	3	0-9
Miami	7	3	3	7-20

#### First Quarter

Mia—Bush 1 run (Carpenter kick), 8:20.  
Was—FG Gano 26, :49.

#### Second Quarter

Mia—FG Carpenter 21, 10:27.  
Was—FG Gano 47, 1:07.

#### Third Quarter

Was—FG Gano 23, 10:38.  
Mia—FG Carpenter 28, 4:59.

#### Fourth Quarter

Mia—Bush 18 run (Carpenter kick), 6:07.  
A—57,007.

	Was	Mia
First downs	16	20
Total Net Yards	246	303
Rushes-yards	17-61	33-103
Passing	185	200
Punt Returns	1-22	2-22
Kickoff Returns	2-38	2-42
Interceptions Ret.	1-30	2-42
Comp-Att-Int	21-32-2	20-29-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-30	2-9
Punts	2-46.5	1-49.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	6-51	6-55
Time of Possession	26:27	33:33

#### Leaders

**RUSHING**—Washington, Helu 6-41, Torain 11-20. Miami, Bush 14-47, Thomas 17-42, Moore 2-14.

**PASSING**—Washington, Grossman 21-32-2-215. Miami, Moore 20-29-1-209.

**RECEIVING**—Washington, Hankerson 8-106, Gaffney 3-37, Davis 3-28, Helu 3-13, Paulsen 1-16, Anderson 1-14, Torain 1-4, Young 1-(minus 3). Miami, Marshall 7-98, Bess 4-37, Bush 4-4, Fasano 3-60, Hartline 1-6, Clay 1-4.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**—Washington, Gano 50 (WL), 49 (WL). Miami, Carpenter 49 (WL).

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

## REDSKINS

From page R1

win the game, and that was Rex," Shanahan said.

Shanahan told Grossman Saturday night that he would start, ending his three-game stint on the bench. Beck lost all three of those games, and two of them were particularly ugly.

Sunday's game, however, wasn't any better.

The Redskins failed to cross the goal line for the second time in the past three games. Their rushing attack

struggled — again — and they converted only 5 of 14 third downs. Washington averaged only 4.7 yards per play, its second-lowest single-game average of the season.

Grossman at first seemed to be a tourniquet, moving the offense on drives of 33 and 39 yards in the first half. Those aren't impressive totals by any standard, but the Redskins have a substandard offense.

"We moved the ball pretty well, but we didn't get it in the end zone," Grossman said. "We just didn't get it done, and it's frustrating because I think we should have."

The running game again failed to take pressure off the quarterback. For the first time in three games, the Redskins were able to stick with it in the second half because they kept the score close. But running lanes weren't consistently available.

Starter Ryan Torain and Roy Helu combined for only 61 yards on 17 carries.

"The first thing you've got to do is look at your running game," Shanahan said. "We're going to have to improve in that area to be the type of offense we want to be."

Grossman forged some semblance

of a rhythm; more, at least, than Beck did. Rookie receiver Leonard Hankerson (106 yards, eight catches) became the first Redskins receiver to eclipse the 100-yard mark in a game this season.

His 22-yard catch down the middle on third-and-10 gave Washington first-and-goal from the Miami 10, trailing 13-9 early in the fourth quarter.

But Grossman failed when it mattered most. The Redskins on first down came out with three receivers to the left. Hankerson ran out, and Jabar Gaffney ran in.

"The linebacker came down on

Jabar and I tried to put it to Hankerson behind him," Grossman said. "He stepped back and made a great play on it. I've got to be more careful with the ball, especially on first down in the red zone at a crucial point in the game."

The Dolphins turned Karlos Dansby's interception into a 10-play, 81-yard touchdown drive that sealed Washington's defeat.

It left the Redskins at a loss. Beck wasn't a solution, and neither was Grossman. Now what?

"Anything right now," right tackle Sean Locklear said. "We're trying to find anything that might spark us."

**"The linebacker came down on Jabar and I tried to put it to Hankerson behind him. He stepped back and made a great play on it. I've got to be more careful with the ball, especially on first down in the red zone at a crucial point in the game."**

— Rex Grossman

**REDSKINS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**



vs. Giants  
W, 28-14

**WEEK 2**



vs. Cardinals  
W, 22-21

**WEEK 3**



at Cowboys  
L, 18-16

**WEEK 4**



at Rams  
W, 17-10

**WEEK 6**



vs. Eagles  
L, 20-13

**WEEK 7**



at Panthers  
L, 33-20

**WEEK 8**



at Bills (Toronto)  
L, 23-0

**WEEK 9**



vs. 49ers  
L, 19-11

**WEEK 10**



at Dolphins  
L, 20-9

**WEEK 11**



vs. Cowboys  
Sun., Nov. 20

**WEEK 12**



at Seahawks  
Sun., Nov. 27

**WEEK 13**



vs. Jets  
Sun., Dec. 4

**WEEK 14**



vs. Patriots  
Sun., Dec. 11

**WEEK 15**



at Giants  
Sun., Dec. 18

**WEEK 16**



vs. Vikings  
Sat., Dec. 24

**WEEK 17**



at Eagles  
Sun., Jan. 1

**DOLPHINS 20, REDSKINS 9: QUARTER-BY-QUARTER**



**FIRST QUARTER:** Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman, making his first start since being benched for three games, is sacked by Dolphins linebacker Karlos Dansby.



**SECOND QUARTER:** Dolphins cornerback Vontae Davis intercepts a pass intended for the Redskins' Leonard Hankerson. The rookie receiver slipped while running his route.



**THIRD QUARTER:** Dolphins quarterback Matt Moore hands off to rookie Daniel Thomas, who eyes a big opening in the line. Thomas ran for 42 yards on 17 carries.



**FOURTH QUARTER:** Dolphins linebacker Karlos Dansby celebrates with teammates after his interception thwarted a Redskins drive. Miami intercepted Rex Grossman twice.

**1** A quarterback change produced the same result in the opening quarter, though the key breakdowns for Rex Grossman were also indicative of why John Beck didn't succeed under center. Namely: problems at other positions. On the opening drive of the game, Grossman was sacked for an 11-yard loss on third-and-4 when Karlos Dansby strolled by Sean Locklear. The next time Washington had the ball, a drive that had been humming along was derailed when Jared Odrick stopped Maurice Hurt for a 12-yard loss on third-and-2. The latter sack made Graham Gano's field goal attempt a 50-yarder, and he missed it wide left. Gano later made a 26-yarder, but the Redskins emerged from the period in a hole thanks to a Reggie Bush TD that capped Miami's opening drive. The Washington defense tightened up after that, with Perry Riley making a handful of big plays in his first start and Kevin Barnes picking off Matt Moore late in the quarter.

**2** The difference with Grossman under center as opposed to Beck is obvious, at least when it comes to what the Redskins think they can do offensively. If nothing else, the offense was more interesting to watch — and gave the opposing defense a lot more to think about — than the dink-and-dunk display a week earlier against the 49ers. Not that it made much of a difference, of course. The flip side of Grossman's ability and willingness to throw the ball downfield is his tendency to have it picked off — even if it isn't necessarily his fault. That surfaced again Sunday when a promising drive came to an end as Grossman's pass for Leonard Hankerson was intercepted by Vontae Davis at the Dolphins' 25 when Hankerson fell down. That turnover led only to a missed field goal, though, and when Gano redeemed himself with a 47-yarder the Redskins were able to enter halftime knowing they were in the game.

**KEY PLAY**

Trailing 13-9 early in the fourth quarter, the Redskins finally had some forward momentum going and were poised to take the lead with first down from the Dolphins' 10. As Rex Grossman dropped back, he looked to his left with his eyes locked on Jabar Gaffney all the way. Dolphins linebacker Karlos Dansby noticed that, too, and jumped the route with little trouble to pick the ball off at Miami's 5 and return it to the 19. The Dolphins marched the length of the field from there to put away the game with a TD.

**3** If ever the Redskins were going to seize the advantage, this was their opportunity. Ryan Kerrigan forced a fumble on the Dolphins' second play from scrimmage after halftime and Stephen Bowen recovered it, setting the Redskins up at Miami's 24 with another easy opportunity to punch it in. But a holding penalty on Trent Williams and subsequent 6-yard loss on a pass to Fred Davis stalled the Redskins' momentum and they ended up settling for another Gano field goal. It wasn't what they wanted or needed, but at least it narrowed the margin to one at 10-9. All they had to do was come up with a big play — on offense or defense — and the game was there for the taking. Following with the trend from the fifth game of the season on, though, Washington failed to do so. Miami ate up a good chunk of the quarter with an 11-play drive that ended in a field goal and Washington had no answer.

**4** Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Redskins' play in recent weeks is the feeling that emerges whenever they face even a slight deficit. NFL teams down 14 points or fewer with more than four minutes to play in a game shouldn't appear hopeless, but these Redskins do. Once the Dolphins scored their second touchdown of the day, with Bush running it in from 18 yards out on a drive that followed Grossman's interception near the opposite goal line, Washington was toast — and the margin was merely 20-9 with 6:07 to play. Sure, with Grossman in there, the Redskins seemed to have a better chance to rally than the week before, but any of the confidence that might actually occur was not evident. Though Washington got big assists from a roughing the passer flag and an offside penalty that wiped out what would have been a second consecutive sack, the Redskins had to settle for a Gano field goal attempt. Naturally, he missed.

**REDSKINS NOTES**

**Davis, Williams facing NFL punishment**

By RICH CAMPBELL  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 106:** Receiving yards for Leonard Hankerson, making him the first Redskins rookie to top 100 yards in a game since Rod Gardner had 208 against Carolina on Oct. 21, 2001
- 1-8:** Mike Shanahan's career regular-season record against Miami
- 20:** Rushing yards for starting tailback Ryan Torain, leaving him with 999 in his career
- 35:** Percent success on third-down conversions for Washington (5 of 14)
- 5:** Consecutive losses for Washington, making it the longest losing streak of Shanahan's career
- 364:** Days since Miami's last victory at home, Nov. 14, 2010, vs. the Titans; the Dolphins entered the game Sunday having lost seven in a row at home.

**MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.** | Washington Redskins tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams face disciplinary action from the NFL after violating the league's substance abuse policy by testing positive for recreational drugs, according to an ESPN report.

Ten NFL players face fines and another player faces a fine and a suspension for testing positive shortly after the lockout ended in July, Yahoo! Sports reported Sunday, citing two unnamed player representatives to the NFL Players Association and another anonymous source. ESPN reported that Davis and Williams are among that group of 11. "Until the situation comes out all the way, I'll talk about it later," Davis said after Sunday's 20-9 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

Coach Mike Shanahan declined comment. "I can't go into that area right now," he said. "I'm not allowed to." According to the Yahoo report, some players are upset with NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith because Smith assured them there would be a grace period for drug testing after the lockout.

There was no collective bargaining agreement or drug policy in effect during the lockout, which lasted from mid-March until the end of July.



Tight end Fred Davis is one of two Redskins who face disciplinary action from the league for violating the NFL substance abuse policy.

One player rep told Yahoo that he was under the impression players would have a 30-day grace period for testing after the lockout ending. However, the league began testing on the second day of training camp.

**Riley makes most of start**

Not to be outdone by the Redskins' struggling offense, a defensive veteran was replaced in the starting lineup Sunday by a young prospect. Second-year inside linebacker Perry Riley took Rocky McIntosh's

spot and finished with nine tackles (seven solo), including four for a loss.

Riley snuffed out a pair of screen passes and shot in behind blockers in space to make the tackle.

On the downside, he appeared to play a run fit inside instead of containing the edge on Reggie Bush's 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. It's uncertain, however, exactly what Riley's responsibility was on the play.

"I felt like I did some good things out there, but I made some mistakes as well," he said. "Those are the things I'm really worried about getting cleaned up. I'm not worried about the things I did good."

**Gano off-target in wind**

So much for kicker Graham Gano's stellar first half of the season. He missed two out of five field goal attempts Sunday. Through eight games, he made 12 of 13 tries that traveled full distance (three other attempts were blocked).

Gano missed wide left from 50 and 49 yards into a stiff wind in the west end zone at Sun Life Stadium. Dolphins kicker Dan Carpenter also missed from 49 yards in the same direction.

"That wind out there, you can't judge it," Gano said. "That's what he said after the game, too, Carpenter. That 50-yarder, that's about as much wind as I've ever kicked in."

**WEEK 11 REDSKINS VS. COWBOYS**



**Kickoff:** 1:05 p.m. **TV:** Fox **Radio:** AM-980, FM-92.7, FM-94.3  
**What to watch:** The Cowboys look to sweep the season series. Dallas won an ugly 18-16 decision on Monday night in Week 3. It was the beginning of Rex Grossman's initial downfall. He threw a costly interception in the first half, as Washington converted only 3 of 12 third-down attempts. The defense failed to get off the field on third-and-21 in the final minutes, which extended Dallas' game-winning field goal drive.

- Rookie running back DeMarco Murray earned the starting job after rushing for 253 yards on 25 carries in a Week 7 win over St. Louis.
- Tony Romo is coming off his best game of the season, throwing for 270 yards and 3 TDs without an interception in a 44-7 rout of Buffalo.

